

3. (Amended) The coating composition according to Claim 1, wherein the mixture of

a<sup>2</sup> polyoxyalkylene polyols is a mixture of a polyoxyalkylene polyol having three hydroxyl groups and a polyoxyalkylene polyol having four hydroxyl groups.

#### REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested.

Claims 1-7 are in the case. Their sole rejection is under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112.

The claims have been amended in a manner believed to obviate this rejection. Specifically, it has now been made clear that the polyoxyalkylene polyol component is a mixture of polyoxyalkylene polyols having the defined characteristics. Note the paragraph bridging pages 8-9, of the specification. The value of n thus is the average number of hydroxyl groups, the mixture also having an average oxyethylene group content as defined. Note page 10, line 11 to page 11, line 25, particularly page 10, line 26 to page 11, line 25, of the specification. The defined values are average values for the mixture of polyoxyalkylene polyols. No inconsistency thus is present in the claims.

With regard to the criticism of "substantially", it has been replaced by --essentially--. Such language precludes the presence of other than unavoidable minor amounts of pores, the coating film being essentially nonporous.

The limitation "as an essential component" has been deleted as being unnecessary.

With regard to "obtainable by", it has been replaced by --obtained by--, as so suggested by the Examiner.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and an action on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Norman F. Oblon  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 24,618

Samuel H. Blech  
Registration No. 32,082



**22850**

(703) 413-3000  
Fax #: (703) 413-2220  
SHB/js

I:\atty\SHB\209241US-AM.wpd

**MARKED-UP COPY**

**IN THE CLAIMS**

--1. (Amended) A coating composition to form a coating layer or film of a hydrophilic polyurethane resin having a moisture permeability and being [substantially] essentially non-porous, which comprises, [as an essential component,] an isocyanate group-containing prepolymer [obtainable] obtained by reacting diphenylmethane diisocyanate with the following mixture of polyoxyalkylene [polyol] polyols:

A mixture of polyoxyalkylene polyol which contains at least 60 wt% of a polyoxyethylene polyol having at least three hydroxyl groups and having an oxyethylene group-content of at least 10 wt%, satisfies  $3.0 < n < 3.5$ , where n is the average number of hydroxyl groups, and has an average oxyethylene group-content of from 60 to 90 wt%.

3. (Amended) The coating composition according to Claim 1, wherein the mixture of polyoxyalkylene [polyol] polyols is a mixture of a polyoxyalkylene polyol having three hydroxyl groups and a polyoxyalkylene polyol having four hydroxyl groups.--